



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re National Phase of:

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Applicant: Stefan Vilsmeier et al.
Serial No.: 10/001,952
Filed: October 31, 2001
Title: BEFESTIGUNGSVORRICHTUNG
Attorney Docket No. SCHWP0154US

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT DELETING MULTIPLE DEPENDENCIES

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the application in accordance with the following appended parts:

- A. Clean Version of Replacement Paragraph/Section/Claim with Instructions for Entry; and
- B. Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.

Remarks

By way of the foregoing, all of the claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies. In the event there still remains a claim that depends from more than one claim, the Office is hereby authorized to amend such claim to depend from the first mentioned of the multiple claims from which it depends.

Respectfully submitted,

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[illegible]

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims of corresponding number.

5. A fixing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said guide is formed as a bore (5a) and/or as a recess (5b).
6. A device as set forth in claim 1, wherein two, three or more guides (5) are formed in said fixing device.
7. A fixing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fixing device comprises a section provided with a screw thread.
8. A fixing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fixing device comprises a section formed as a nail and/or a section with edges running approximately parallel to the direction of insertion.
9. A fixing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fixing device comprises an element (4) tapered at its lower end.
10. A fixing device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fixing device comprises a connecting element or a recess (3a), wherein tools can be positioned or devices (10, 11) can be attached.
11. A fixing system comprising a fixing device (1) as set forth in claim 1 and at least one securing element (6) at least partially inserted into said guide (5a, 5b).

13. A fixing system as set forth in claim 11, wherein said guide (5a, 5d) of said fixing device (1) and said securing element (6) are formed in such a way that said securing element (6) inserted into said fixing device (1) exhibits substantially no play.

14. A positioning system comprising a fixing system (1, 6) as set forth in claim 11 and a positioning element (11) fixed to it.

16. A positioning system as set forth in claim 14, wherein said positioning element is a reference star (11).

19. A fixing device as set forth in claim 17, wherein at least one fixing section, in particular a recess (21a), is provided in the fixing device (21), in particular for attaching a positioning element (11).

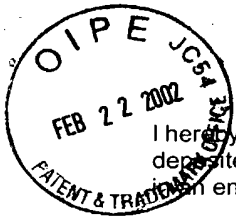
20. A fixing system comprising a fixing device as set forth in claim 17, and elements guided in the guides (23a, 23b), in particular Kirschner wires or Schanz screws.

[illegible]

7.

In the Claims:

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: 2/5/02

Shari Suss
Shari Suss

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Art Unit:
Docket No. SCHWP0154US

LETTER TO OFFICIAL DRAFTSPERSON

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application are the required formal drawings.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher B. Jacobs

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